National Missile Test Range at Baliapal in Orissa

557. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finally decided to locate the National Missile Test Range (NTTR) in Baliapal (Orissa) by reducing the affected area from 125 villages to 65 villages and the population from one lakh to 45000;

(b) whether it is also a fact that earlier proposal to locate the NTR in Bidar (Karnataka) was abandoned because of stiff resistance from the people;

(c) if so, what alternatives *vis-a-vis* principles followed for locating such test ranges in other countries like U.S.A., U.K., France, China and USSR were studied before taking a final decision in the matter; and

(d) what are the considerations leading to the final decisions which would, if implemented, displace large population, destroy fertile and rich agricultural land, cause ecological imbalance and endanger peace in the Indian Ocean?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) Yes, Sir. The requirements were critically re-examined with an objective to minimise the population displacement without compromising safety. The affected area was reduced from 130 villages to 54 villages and the population from about 70,100 to 41000.

(b) No, Sir. The Bidar (Karnataka) site was never considered by Ministry of Defence for establishing National Range.

(c) and (d) We are aware of such test ranges in other countries. The site in our country was selected from the available sites to meet our requirements. The site was selected taking into consideration the various aspects like technical operational, safety requirements, ecology and population. It does not cause very large scale displacement of population and disturbance of ecological balance in the area.

This range is only a test range for fight testing of rockets and missile and launching of satellites into Polar Orbits. It does not endanger the peace in the Indian ocean.

Viral fever in Delhi

558. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the viral fever which has been spreading in Delhi and a large number of patients are treated in various hospitals;

(b) if so, the causes for the same; and

(c) the action taken by the health authorities to contain the disease?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA): (a) and (b) Yes. The outbreak of viral fevers in Delhi has been investigated by the National Institute of Communicable Diseases, Delhi and the National Institute of Virology, Pune. The investigation had shown that many of the cases of viral fever was due to dengue virus.

(c) There is no specific treatment for dengue infection nor any vaccine developed yet for prophylactic immunization and the cases are treated with Sympathetic and by supportive treatment. However, cases showing haemorrhagic manifestation are treated with intravenous fluid and plasma and blood transfusion indicated in cases of severe bleeding. Other preventive measures include antimosquito and antilarval measures against Aedes aegypti mosquitoes.